

two, and one thousand nine hundred and thirty-three, be, and the same are hereby ratified and confirmed.

SEC. 2. That in all tax foreclosure suits heretofore instituted in the County of Catawba and the Town of Maiden situated therein, the service of summons is hereby declared to be legal and said service of summons is hereby ratified and confirmed.

Service of summons validated.

SEC. 3. That in all tax foreclosure suits heretofore instituted in the County of Catawba and the Town of Maiden situated therein, where alias summons has not been issued and served within the time prescribed by general law, alias papers may be issued in said proceedings at any time within two years from the ratification of this Act.

Provision for alias summons.

SEC. 4. That during the pendency of said land foreclosure suits, the court, at the request of the plaintiff or defendant, is hereby authorized and empowered to make new parties or additional parties, at the request and on recommendation of either of the parties, plaintiff or defendant. The word "court" as set out herein shall be construed to mean the Clerk of the Superior Court of Catawba County, and for the purpose of making new or additional parties, he shall have the same authority as now exercised by the Superior Court Judges of the State of North Carolina.

Provision for making new parties.

"Court" defined.

SEC. 5. That the County of Catawba and the Town of Maiden situated therein shall have two years from the date of the ratification of this Act to institute any tax suits for unpaid taxes, due now or that may become due after the date of the ratification of his Act. However, nothing in this Act shall prevent suits being brought earlier by the County or the Town of Maiden situated therein, if either should see fit to do so.

Time limit for beginning tax suits.

SEC. 6. That the County of Catawba and the Town of Maiden situated therein shall each year during the month of November, before any tax suit in the discretion of the Board is started, write each delinquent taxpayer in said County or municipality a letter, giving him, her or it an opportunity to pay his, her or its back taxes and cost, and by order of the Board, may be free from penalties: *Provided*, that in the event a taxpayer or taxpayers should fail to receive said letter shall not be any defense in court in an action brought by the said County of Catawba or the Town of Maiden.

Written notice to taxpayers before beginning suits.

Failure to receive notice no defense.

SEC. 7. That the tax suits and the street improvements suits now pending which have heretofore been instituted by the Town of Maiden, North Carolina, shall not be heard in court until after December, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-five, this to be in the discretion of the said Town of Maiden. Thus giving the taxpayers an opportunity to pay prior to that time.

Postponement of hearing on suits.

SEC. 8. That the provisions of this Act shall be considered separately, and if any part, section, sentence, paragraph, clause or phrase shall be declared unconstitutional by final judgment, in a

Valid parts of Act upheld.